

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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R 280930Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 130

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 2227

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, XF, CD

SUBJ: CHAD AND THE ARAB WORLD

REF: TRIPOLI 942; DOHA 1006 (NOTAL)

1. THE NEW MILITARY REGIME IN CHAD SPENT FIRST TWO AND ONE-HALF MONTHS FOLLOWING APRIL 13 COUP D'ETAT PUTTING DOMESTIC AFFAIRS IN ORDER. DURING LAST TWO MONTHS, HOWEVER, EMPHASIS HAS BEEN ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND PARTICULARLY RELATIONS WITH ARAB WORLD. ALTHOUGH GOC FOREIGN MINISTER KAMOUGUE HAS CONCENTRATED ON PRESSING AFRICAN QUESTIONS (MOZAMBIQUE INDEPENDENCE, OAU FOREIGN MINISTERS AND CHIEFS OF STATE SUMMIT, CONFIDENTIAL

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GOOD-WILL VISITS TO CENTRAL AFRICAN NEIGHBORS AND ZAIRE,

ETC.), SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES RULING SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL (SMC) HAVE BEEN ON THE ROAD FOR PAST TWO MONTHS METHODICALLY VISITING WESTERN AND EASTERN ARAB COUNTRIES. MINISTER FINANCE, PLAN, AND ECONOMY BRIG GEN DJOGO AND PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER CAPT ZAKARIA (ONE OF FEW SMC MEMBERS FROM NORTHERN CHAD; A NOMINAL MOSLEM) LEFT NDJAMENA JULY 8, RETURNING AUGUST 2, AFTER PAYING GOOD-WILL VISITS TUNISIA, MOROCCO, ALGERIA, MAURITANIA, AND WEST AFRICAN STATES. SECOND DELEGATION HEADED BY VICE PRESIDENT SMC AND MINISTER INTERIOR COL DJIME, MINISTER INFORMATION MAHMOUD (ALSO NORTHERN MOSLEM), AND IMAM OF NDJAMENA DEPARTED JULY 28 AND HAVE NOT YET RETURNED FROM ITINERARY WHICH WAS TO INCLUDE SUDAN, EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA, ABU DHABI, QATAR, KUWAIT AND IRAQ. OSTENSIBLE PURPOSE OF TOURS WAS TO EXPLAIN REASONS MILITARY THOUGHT IT NECESSARY TO STAGE COUP IN CHAD AND TO DESCRIBE POLICIES OF NEW GOVERNMENT.

2. NOTABLY ABSENT FROM ABOVE ITINERARIES WAS LIBYA WHICH RECEIVED PARTICULAR ATTENTION SMC SHORTLY AFTER COUP WITH VISIT FOREIGN MINISTER KAMOUGUE AND AGAIN WITH SECOND KAMOUGUE VISIT MID-AUGUST WHICH RESULTED IN RETURN FROM LIBYAN EXILE AFTER NINE YEARS OF THE DERDE, TRADITIONAL SPIRITUAL LEADER OF REBELLIOUS TOUBOUS IN NORTHERN CHAD. PRINCIPAL PROBLEM IN CHADIAN/LIBYAN RELATIONS, OF COURSE, IS LIBYAN CLAIM TO BORDER AREA NORTHERN CHAD, BASED ON TRADITIONAL CLAIMS SENOUSIYA KINGS OF LIBYA BEFORE FRENCH CONQUEST AND DRAFT FRANCO/ITALIAN AGREEMENT 1935 (NEVER RATIFIED BY FRANCE) GRANTING AREA TO ITALY IN EXCHANGE FOR CONCESSIONS ELSEWHERE. UNTIL AUGUST 23 PUBLICATION LIBYAN CLAIM IN LIBYAN ARMY NEWSPAPER (TRIPOLI REFTEL), CLAIM NOT ACKNOWLEDGED PUBLICLY IN RECENT PAST ALTHOUGH LIBYAN MILITARY OCCUPATION AOZOU (NORTH OF BARDAI) AND TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE TO NORTHERN REBELS WIDELY KNOWN. UNCONFIRMED REPORTS FROM LOCAL SOURCES WHICH RELIABLE IN PAST INDICATE THAT DURING MOST RECENT VISIT TO LIBYA KAMOUGUE MET WITH PM JALUD WHO REFUSED ANY MODERATION OF LIBYAN POSITION. KAMOUGUE THEN REPORTEDLY INFORMED JALUD THAT CHAD INTENDED MAKE MAJOR ISSUE OF LIBYAN AGGRESSION IN OAU.

3. WHILE ECONOMIC AID, AS SUGGESTED BY DOHA REFTEL, CERTAINLY MAJOR PURPOSE DELEGATIONS' VISIT ARAB OPEC STATES, POLITICAL SUPPORT IN DISPUTE WITH LIBYA UNDOUBTEDLY ALSO OF PRIME
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IMPORTANCE, PARTICULARLY WITH OAU MEMBERS. CHAD HAS LITTLE LEVERAGE, HOWEVER, BEYOND ITS VOTE ON ARAB/ISRAELI ISSUES AT UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORA AND GENERAL DISTASTE MOST OAU MEMBERS FOR UPSETTING AFRICAN BORDERS ESTABLISHED BY COLONIAL POWERS. CHADIAN MILITARY REGIME GIVES EVERY INDICATION OF WISHING MOUNT SIGNIFICANT MILITARY EFFORT AGAINST REBELS SHOULD OVERTURES OF RECENT MONTHS CONTINUE BE UNHEEDED, BUT SUCH EFFORT WOULD REQUIRE SUBSTANTIAL FRENCH

LOGISTICAL SUPPORT WHICH OUT OF QUESTION WHILE REBELS RETAIN
FRENCH HOSTAGES AND GOC REMAINS INTRANSIGENT ON TERMS FRANCE
HAS PROPOSED FOR THEIR RELEASE.
LITTLE

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